

**REMARKS**

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-16, 19, and 21-22 are cancelled. Thus, claims 5, 9, 17, 18, and 20 are present for examination.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 9 are allowed. Applicant expresses further appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 17, 18, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and has been further amended to correct some minor informalities. Therefore, independent claim 17, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Because it depends from independent claim 17, dependent claim 18 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reason that independent claim 17 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and has been further amended to correct a minor informality. Therefore, independent claim 20, as amended, is believed to be allowable.

**Claim Rejection:**

Claims 13-16, 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,472) (hereinafter Umeda) in view of Keeth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,197) (hereinafter Keeth).

Claims 13-16, 19, 21, and 22 have been cancelled and, thus, the rejection is moot.

**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 3, 2006

By Justin M. Sobaje

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 22428  
Telephone: (310) 975-7965  
Facsimile: (310) 557-8475

Justin M. Sobaje  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 56,252